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IN THE UNITED TRADE IN THE UNITED TO THE Application of:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ication of: Confirmation No: 8145

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Art Unit: 2856

MAR 0 3 2004

Application No.: 09/993,500

**Examiner: Thomas Noland** 

Filed: November 27, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 107317-00037

For: GAP ADJUSTMENT APPARATUS AND GAP ADJUSTMENT METHOD FOR ADJUSTING GAP BETWEEN TWO OBJECTS

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

**MAIL STOP AF** 

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: March 1, 2004

Sir:

This paper is in reply to the outstanding Office Action dated December 17, 2003.